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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, October 30, 2006

***GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES \$2.4 MILLION TO AID ARIZONA RANCHERS***  
***Arizona Department of Agriculture to Distribute Funds to Livestock Producers***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today announced the start of an application process for Arizona livestock producers to receive aid brought on by the impact of the 2006 drought. In August 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) more than \$2.4 million to distribute through the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program.

“The 2006 drought adversely impacted Arizona’s livestock and brought unanticipated costs to Arizona ranchers,” Governor Napolitano said. “By working with USDA Secretary Mike Johanns, we were able to secure funds to assist our ranchers and continue the Arizona livestock industry.”

USDA selected 13 Arizona counties for the program, using the U.S. Drought Monitors from March 9, 2006 to August 31, 2006 as the basis for the selection. The money will be allocated to beef cattle and sheep producers in Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai and Yuma Counties.

“Livestock is an important industry to Arizona and we must maintain it,” ADA Director Donald Butler said. “This aid will help ranchers recover from the costs associated with the drought, such as supplemental feed, relocating livestock, increased feed transportation costs, and emergency water supply needs.”

To download the application, visit [www.azda.gov](http://www.azda.gov), under “Livestock Assistance Grant Program” or visit Farm Service Agency offices or University of Arizona Cooperative Extension offices. Applications must be returned to the Arizona Department of Agriculture by 5 p.m. Friday, December 29, 2006 or postmarked by that date.